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21. (Twice Amended) A composition comprising a recombinant adeno-associated virus (AAV) suspended in a biologically compatible carrier, wherein said recombinant AAV comprises (a) 5' AAV inverted terminal repeats (ITRs), (b) nucleic acid sequences encoding human apolipoprotein E (ApoE), and (c) 3' AAV ITRs, and  
wherein the level of contaminating adenoviral helper virus is no greater than that obtained by subjecting said recombinant AAV to four rounds of cesium chloride gradient centrifugation, and wherein the ApoE is expressed in the absence of a cytotoxic immune response directed against recombinant AAV-transduced cells expressing the ApoE.

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26. (Amended) A method of delivering apolipoprotein E (apoE) to a patient in need of treatment of atherosclerosis, said method comprising the step of administering to the patient a composition comprising a recombinant adeno-associated virus (AAV) suspended in a biologically compatible carrier,  
wherein said recombinant AAV comprises (a) 5' AAV inverted terminal repeats (ITRs), (b) nucleic acid sequences encoding human apolipoprotein E (ApoE), and (c) 3' AAV ITRs, wherein the level of contaminating adenoviral helper virus is no greater than that obtained by subjecting said recombinant AAV to four rounds of cesium chloride gradient centrifugation, and wherein the ApoE in said composition is expressed in the patient in the absence of a cytotoxic immune response directed against recombinant AAV-transduced cells expressing the ApoE.